

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 041445Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1878

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2381

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM GLEYSTEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BB, VE, CU

SUBJ: BRIEFING OF GOB OFFICIALS BY STATE/FBI TEAM

STATE/FBI TEAM, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE MET FOR 1 1/2 HOURS
WITH MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FORDE, PERMSEC,
MINEXTAFF SYMMONDS, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL BROWNE IN MORNING
DECEMBER 2.

GLEYSTEN EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF TEAM'S VISIT AS ORIGINALLY
OUTLINED IN SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FORDE. GLEYSTEN SAID
THAT IN ADDITION TO SHARING OUR OWN EXPERIENCES IN COMBATTING
TERRORISM WE HAD AN INTEREST IN HAVING OUR FRIENDS IN THE
CARIBBEAN UNDERSTAND THAT WHATEVER ACTIVITIES AGAINST CASTRO
U.S. FOSTERED IN EARLY 1960'S THEY WERE TERMINATED A
DECADE AGO. DESPITE OUR STRONG RECORD ON COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM OF ANY KIND, CASTRO HAS ATTEMPTED TO TURN PUBLIC
OPINION IN CARIBBEAN AGAINST US BY CONFUSING EVENTS OF
EARLY 1960'S AND PRESENT. ANTI-CASTRO TERRORISTS ALSO
EXPLOIT THIS CONFUSION FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

FORDE SAID GOB ACCEPTED OUR DISCLAIMER OF ANY INVOLVEMENT
IN CUBANA CRASH AND WELCOMED VISIT OF STATE/FBI TEAM AND ITS
OFFER OF FUTURE COOPERATION. HE SAID GOB WAS EXTREMELY
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VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF ITS LIMITED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL
RESOURCES FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM AND FACT THAT TOURISM
FROM NORTH AMERICA WAS ONE OF ITS MAIN INDUSTRIES. FORDE
COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO HAVE ADVANCE

INFORMATION ABOUT TERRORISTS COMING TO BARBADOS.

DEEGAN EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY WE HAD WITH PROVIDING WATCH LIST AS IT COULD BE USED TO INFRINGE UPON CIVIL RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS. HOWEVER TEAM WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS WITH BARBADIAN POLICE OFFICERS AT MEETING SCHEDULED ON AFTERNOON DEC. 2.

COMMENTING GENERALLY ON CUBAN PROBLEM AND "DESTABILIZATION" THEME, FORDE REITERATED THAT GOB DOES NOT SHARE ANXIETIES OF SOME OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND ITS OWN OPPOSITION ON THIS SCORE. HOWEVER, IN AGREEING TO COOPERATE IN COMBATTING WITH US, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND GOB'S VULNERABILITY TO CHARGES OF BEING U.S. PUPPET. COOPERATION SHOULD BE HANDLED QUIETLY.

FORDE COMMENTED THAT BARBADOS ENJOYED STABILITY, BUT LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES ITS YOUNG INTELLECTUALS WERE IMPRESSED BY CUBAN SOCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FINANCED BY SOVIET SUBSIDIES. HE WAS NOT SURE THEY APPRECIATED THAT USSR WOULD NOT SUBSIDIZE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS HEMISPHERE IF THEY FOLLOWED CUBA'S PATH. TO COUNTERACT THIS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE NEEDED: NOT MULTI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE, BUT SPECIFIC BILATERAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS PUBLIC HOUSING WHICH COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS DIRECT BENEFIT FROM U.S.

TEAM MET WITH PERMSEC HEADLEY AND POLICE COMMISSIONER REID AND THREE OTHER BARBADOS POLICE OFFICERS DEC. 3 AFTER-PLBC FOR 2 HOURS. AT BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS DEEGAN AND CASTONGUAY OUTLINED ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF FBI AND STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO COMBAT TERRORISM INCLUDING CURRENT GRAND JURIES IN WASHINGTON AND MIAMI RESPECTIVELY INVESTIGATING LETCHIS ASSASSINATION AND CONSPIRACIES HATCHED IN MIAMI.

REID SAID HE FOUND PRESENTATION EXTREMELY INTERESTING. NOTING THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN U.S. HAD SHARPLY DECLINED IN 1976, COMPARED TO 1975. HE SAID FUEFULLY THAT TERRORISTS
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WERE TRANSFERRING THEIR ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE TO DETREMENT OF BARBADOS. HE SAID THAT UPON INSISTENCE OF ITS TOURISM BOARD, BARBADOS HAS TO ACCEPT NORTH AMERICAN VISITORS WITH OUT PASSPORTS, REQUIRING SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A LIST OF POTENTIAL TROUBLE-MAKERS. DEEGAN SAID WE COULD NOT PROVIDE WATCH LIST BECAUSE WE DID NOT KNOW HOW INFORMATION WOULD BE USED. REID INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE USED FOR MAKING ARRESTS BUT SIMPLY TO ALERT HIS POLICE. THEY WOULD ACT DIFFERENTLY IF THEY KNEW VISITORS IN BARBADOS HAD PAST ASSOCIATION WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. HE CITED EARLIER VISITS BY LUGO AND LOZANO TO BRIDGETOWN DURING BOMBING HERE AND TO KINGSTON DURING ATTEMPTED BOMBING THERE. TEAM OBSERVED THAT BEFORE CUBANA CRASH U.S. GOVT DID NOT EVEN

KNOW OF LUGO AND LOZANO OR THAT THEY WERE SUSPECTED
TERRORISTS.

DEEGAN SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK ON BEHALF OF HIS ORGANIZATION, BUT
HE CERTAINLY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT
SUSPECTED TERRORISTS WITH BARBADOS IF IT WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD
THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE MIS-USED.

BARBADIANS WERE INTERESTED WHETHER U.S. GOVT WAS FULLY
SATISFIED THAT JOE LEO HAD NO CONNECTIONS WITH VENEZUELAN
SUSPECTS. TEAM SAID THIS HAD BEEN FULLY INVESTIGATED AND
LEO WAS UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE AND CUBAN
EXPLOITATION OF IT TO FOSTER MYTH THAT U.S. HAD MASTERMINDED
CUBANA CRASH. TEAM ASKED FOR OTHER NAMES IN LUGO'S ADDRESS
BOOK CONTAINING LEO'S NAME. REID SAID ONE OF HIS OFFICERS
HAD SEEN ADDRESS BOOK BRIEFLY BUT HAD NO OPPORTUNITY
TO COPY IT. BOOK IS NOW IN CARACAS.

AT CONCLUSION OF AFTERNOON MEETING HEADLEY SAID THAT PRESENTATION HAD

BEEN FIRST CLASS AND HIS DIVISION LOOKED FORWARD TO FUTURE
COOPERATION WITH US.

COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT MISSION SERVED THE OBJECTIVE OF TILTING
BARBADIAN OFFICIALS TOWARD VIEW THAT WE INDEED HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH CUBANA CRASH, THAT WE ARE SERIOUSLY ADDRESSING CUBAN
EXILE TERRORIST PROBLEM IN US, AND THAT WE DESIRE INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION ON THIS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, GOB EXPRESSIONS OF INTERST
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IN COOPERATION SEEMED TO INDICATE LITTLE MORE THAN THAT IT
WOULD WELCOME US HELP: TECHNICAL DEVICES AND TRAINING FOR
AIRPORT SECURITY WHICH GOB NEEDS TO PROTECT ITS TOURIST
INDUSTRY, PLUS INFORMATION WE COULD PROVIDE ABOUT TERRORIST
SUSPECTS WHO MIGHT COME TO BARBADOS. BARBADIANS ALSO CONVEYED TO US
A CERTAIN NERVOUSNESS ABOUT TOO-CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE U.S.
FINALLY, THEY USED CONSULTATIONS TO PRESS US ON AN UNRELATED
BARBADIAN INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM (SEE SEPTTEL).

FBI REPS THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT GOB DID NOT
VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION OR INSIGHTS ABOUT CUBANA CRASH IT
MUST HAVE ACQUIRED FROM MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN IN EARLY
OCTOBER (WITH REPS OF VENEZUELA, CUBA, GUYANA, AND
T&T) OR FROM THE JUST CONCLUDED INQUIRY COMMISSION HERE.

WHILE THIS IS VALID CRITICISM, IT HAS TO BE VIEWED IN THE
CONTEXT OF BARBADOS, A COUNTRY WITH 166 SQUARE MILES, A POP-
ULATION OF 250,000, AND LITTLE DIPLOMATIC/POLITICAL TRADITION
OR CADRE OF SOPHISTICATED INVESTIGATIVE OFFICERS FOR
COPING WITH THE YPE OF PROBLEM PRESENTED BY THE
CUBANA CRASH. THE FOOT-DRAGGING BY VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD
ABOUT RECEIVING OUR TEAM, WHICH THE GOB SEEMED AWARE OF,

MUST HAVE INCREASED ITS DIFFIDENCE.

ALSO IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS ON CHILE AND RELEATIONS OF CIA'S ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST CASTRO IN 1974 AND 1975 HAVE TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL. THE BARBADIANS DID NOT SEEM ENTIRELY CONVINCED THAT THE INGREDIENTS WHICH WENT INTO THE BAY OF PIGS ARE STILL NOT KEPT IN THE US FOREIGN POLICY KITCHEN.

THE FBI REPS FORMED A STRONG IMPRESSION--AND I AGREE-- THAT ANY COOPERATION WITH BARBADOS IN COPING WITH CUBAN TERRORISM WILL BE LARGELY A ONE-WAY STREET.

CHARGE SIMMS, HOWEVER, TOLD ME THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS PRODUCED A NEW DEGREE OF CANDOR IN DISCUSSING SECURITY QUESTIONS WITH THE GOB.
SIMMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, ANTICOMMUNIST, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, BRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE02381
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760449-0814
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaaerwc.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING OF GOB OFFICIALS BY STATE/FBI TEAM STATE/FBI TEAM, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE MET FOR 1 1/2 HOURS WITH
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FORDE, PERMS EC
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BB, VE, CU, FBI
To: STATE INFO CARACAS
PORT OF SPAIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006